UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/236
1 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan denouncing the massacre of Palestinian Muslims in Alkhaliel on Friday, 25 February 1994.

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate it under the item entitled "The situation in the occupied Arab territories" as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Mohamed Osman YASSIN
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan on 26 February 1994 concerning the massacre at the Haram al-Ibrahimi in Hebron

"Count not those who were slain in God's way as dead, but rather living with their Lord, by Him provided." (Koran 3:169)

The conscience of the entire world has been deeply moved by yesterday morning's savage massacre, by Zionist terrorist bands, of Palestinian worshippers at the Haram al-Ibrahimi in Hebron in which dozens of innocent and defenceless persons were killed and hundreds wounded.

In the way that it happened, this crime clearly indicates that the Zionist occupation forces were in collusion with the perpetrators, to say nothing of the fact that these forces engaged in a second massacre in which seven Palestinians were killed when they sought to express their anger after the crime had taken place.

Israel is fully accountable for this crime because of its evident collusion with the assailants, as exemplified by its failure to provide protection to the worshippers at the Haram al-Ibrahimi and by the fact that it allowed the assailants to continue shooting for more than 10 minutes without the least attempt being made by Israeli security forces to intervene to stop the slaughter.

What happened yesterday in Hebron is no more than a continuation of the policy of terrorism that the Zionist enemy pursues against the Palestinian people. It clearly shows that the establishment of illegal settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the insistence on their retention, the postponement of negotiations in their regard and indeed the arming of the Zionist extremists who live in them amount to a deliberate policy aimed at liquidating the Palestinian people and imposing occupation on it by force of arms.

Yesterday's crime has laid bare the spurious and deceptive invocation of the concept of peace proclaimed by the Zionist leaders. It has made it clear that it is really the defenceless Palestinian people that requires protection and security and not the heavily armed bands of Zionist settlers in the occupied Arab territories, which engage in the most ruthless coercion and intimidation of that people with a view to perpetuating the occupation. As it condemns this harrowing massacre, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan urges the Security Council immediately to assume its responsibilities and:

(a) To condemn Israel and hold it fully accountable for yesterday's abominable crime;

(b) To endeavour to require that international protection be provided for the defenceless Palestinian people against the intimidation and violence of Zionist bands;

(c) To take urgent steps to disarm the Zionist bands in the settlements;

(d) To ensure the complete removal of settlements from all occupied Arab territories in keeping with the long-standing determination by the United Nations that such settlements are illegal.

The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that yesterday's disgraceful and infamous crime at the Haram al-Ibrahimi should awaken the international community and the States permanent members of the Security Council to their responsibilities with a view to taking action to impose a comprehensive, just and genuine peace based on full evacuation of all occupied Arab territories, on the elimination of all forms and manifestations of occupation and on granting the Palestinian people its legitimate right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent State.

As it consoles the steadfast Palestinian people and the peoples of the Arab Islamic community on the martyrs fallen at the Haram al-Ibrahimi, the Ministry believes that this criminal act by Zionist terrorist bands is primarily directed against the peoples and States of this community and that it is part of the malicious plot to destroy the existence, identity and civilization of this community. The Ministry takes this painful opportunity to call upon the community and its peoples to rise above their wounds, to arm themselves with vigilance and to close ranks in order to confront and defeat such criminal plots.